

CONFESSES TO MURDER OF MRS. BELLE GUNNESS Gifford Pinchot Arraigns Conservation Enemies

Ray Lamphere, Who Was Serving a Life Term in Prison, Acknowledged Deed Before He Died.

Woman Was Chloroformed While Lamphere and Female Companion Robbed House.

By Associated Press
ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13.—In a copy-righted story today the Post Dispatch publishes what is claimed to be the confession of Ray Lamphere, who died recently in the Indiana penitentiary at Michigan City, when serving sentence for setting fire to the home of Mrs. Belle Gunness near LaPorte, Indiana, making it known that Dr. E. A. Schell, formerly of LaPorte, heard the confession. The confession shows that Mrs. Gunness and her three children were chloroformed by Lamphere who was robbing the house with a woman accomplice; that Jennie Olson was not killed by Mrs. Gunness; that the chloroform used was part of what he had bought for Mrs. Gunness to kill three men, one of whom was Andrew Helgelin, and the others probably Ole Budsburg and Tonnies Peterson, and that one of these was the third husband of Mrs. Gunness. The paper says if Schell would consent to talk he could verify the confession of the publishers. The confession, according to the paper, was obtained from a man of unassailable character and truthfulness, and whose standing in the community where he lives is such that his word is accepted unquestioned. Schell is at Burlington, Iowa, and after hearing the confession which the Post Dispatch printed, said he had not divulged any such confession to any person. The staff correspondent of the paper saw Schell at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, last Sunday and he refused to give public the confession of Ray Lamphere on the ground "It is pledged to my secrecy of a confidential." The confession establishes

the fact that Mrs. Gunness is dead and that the body found in the smoking ruins of the Gunness farm house was the body of the alleged murderess. She was in the deep sleep that chloroform induces when smoke crept through the crevices and smothered her. She died with the head of her little boy pillowed on her breast. He, too, was chloroformed, and died without waking. The two little girls, Myrtle and Lucy, were not so thoroughly chloroformed and awoke and ran to their mother's room where they perished. Jennie Olson, a niece and adopted daughter of Mrs. Gunness, who was believed to have been murdered by the woman more than a year before the house was burned, and whose body was believed to be buried in the farmyard, was not murdered by Mrs. Gunness, according to the confession, but was burned to death by the fire that destroyed the house. She also was chloroformed.

Assuming that Lamphere told the truth about Jennie Olson, the identity of the girl buried in the yard adds another mystery to the case. Mrs. Gunness made a mistake in believing she could safely break with Lamphere under the belief that complicity in her crimes would keep him silent. Lamphere let himself into the house on the night of the fire and the chloroform was administered. A search for money was made but less than \$70 was found. Then he and the woman whom, he says, accompanied him, went away, and according to Lamphere were hurrying away toward the country where he was to work that day. He looked back and saw the flames bursting from the house.

HOW IT FEELS TO RIDE IN AN AEROPLANE

By Associated Press
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13.—"All who have had the good fortune to ride in an aeroplane," said one of them the other day, "unite in their description of their first sensation. There is no jerk in the starting, though the machine may leap forward with a powerful swoop. Then comes—with some—a brief sense of nausea, a feeling as if the ground were dropping away from beneath. "A slight thrust of the lever lifts the flying machine's head, the ground drops away still faster. Then, as the aeroplane soars still higher, its occupant's eyes adjust themselves to the proper focus and the surface of the earth below seems to be ripping past at railway speed. "By this time you have forgotten the clack of the noisy motor, the flap and whir of the propellers, the grinding of the chain and sprocket gear that drives them. All vibration has practically ceased and you float along with a sense of springy ease and buoyancy such as you can gain from no other means of locomotion. That you are flying fast you know only from the roar of the wind in your ears and the slight difficulty you have in filling your lungs with air—the same sensation one gets in racing against the wind in an automobile on a good highway. "Then comes the first turn. The machine rises to take it, taking its own angle sideways, just as an automobile leans on the banked curve of an automobile track. You have no sense of leaning sideways, though—no feeling that you must tilt yourself as you do when an automobile turns a corner, for you

sit upright, the aeroplane slanting of its own volition to the necessary angle and slanting you with it. "A glass of water set on the floor of the flyer could be carried around curve after curve and still not lose a drop."

BODIES OF ALASKA VICTIMS RECOVERED

CORVOVA, Alaska, Jan. 13.—The bodies of Harry G. Elliott of New York, president of the Elliott Hubbard Copper company of Chicago, and H. H. Greer, of Seattle, who were killed in a snow slide on the company's property at Elliott creek, 100 miles north of here, December 30, have been recovered, and are being brought to Cordova by fast dog teams for shipment to Seattle. Hubbard and Greer went to Elliott creek late in December with a party of mining experts to examine the copper properties in the interest of a New York syndicate which holds the company's bonds. They were caught in a snow slide and were instantly killed. Accompanying Elliott and Greer were A. H. Berry of Chicago, E. J. Collins of Duluth and Martin Schurin of New York. They escaped uninjured.

Mrs. Elliott is expected to meet her husband's body at Seattle and take it east for burial.

NEW MEMBER IN LOCAL LAW FIRM

Word has been received in this city announcing the arrival of an eight pound boy into the family of Walter D. Cole. Walter junior was born on the 10th at Oakland, Cal., and the dispatch stated that Mrs. Cole was progressing very nicely. As yet no dispatch has been received from Carson and the condition of Walter senior is subject to doubt.

Remember that we still make books and guarantee them.

TO CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST HIGH-GRADING

By Associated Press
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Jan. 13.—The fight against high-grading operations in the Cripple Creek district will be continued with increased vigor in 1910, according to a decision yesterday by the mine owners in annual meeting. Reports showed that \$250,000 had been stolen in 1909 through high-grading operations.

CONDITION OF WALSH SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

By Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The condition of Thomas F. Walsh, the millionaire Colorado mine owner, who is ill at his home on Massachusetts avenue, in this city, was reported to be much improved today.

A LADIES' INSTITUTE TO BE FORMED HERE

Some of the ladies of the Catholic church of this city have in hand the matter of organizing a local branch of the Ladies' Institute, which is particularly strong on this coast.

Mrs. Kate R. Court is among the prime movers in the matter, and some definite action will be taken at an early date.

LOS ANGELES HAS GONE MAD ON AVIATION

**Everyone Now Wants to Ride in an Airship—
Nothing Startling Happens During Day.**

By Associated Press
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13.—Everyone in Los Angeles tonight wants to go up in an airship, not quite, perhaps to the Martian canals, but just low over the soft turf course on a sunny day, and it is fair to say that if science develops as fast as it did this afternoon, the craze will be almost as common as golf. While Paulhan did not do anything so wonderful today, as seeking a pathway to paradise, he took up two passengers, Miscalot and Masson, his assistants, and circled the field with them several times, then cut "across-lots," in what was considered an attempt to slow down Glenn Curtiss, who was flying on the regular course at the same time for a ten-lap speed record. Curtiss' manager protested against Paulhan getting in the way of the Curtiss machine during the ten-lap trial and a contest may develop. Curtiss attempted to make a record for this but failed. The total time was 24 minutes, 54 2-5 seconds. Later Paulhan tried to beat this but failed by five seconds. Earlier in the day with his wife as a passenger Paulhan made the three laps course in 8:16 1-5. On another flight of seven minutes he took Mrs. "Dick" Ferris as a passenger. Willard duplicated the feat of starting and flying around the course once, landing in a measured space twenty feet, and winning a prize of \$250. Charles Hamilton, in a Curtiss machine, tried for the ten-lap speed record but landed on the third lap, on account of engine troubles.

ATTORNEYS SAY PHILANTHROPIST WAS POISONED

By Associated Press
KANSAS CITY, Jan. 13.—Doubting that Thomas Swope, the millionaire philanthropist, who died here October 3 came to his death from natural causes, relatives have started an investigation. Attorneys representing the Swope estate say they are convinced a plot existed to kill Colonel Swope and other members of the family by poison, by one who hoped to become sole beneficiary. It is believed the death of the millionaire and a nephew who died on December 2nd, were caused by poisoning. The attorneys assert an arrest will be made in a few days.

PENSION FOR MRS. CLEVELAND.

By Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—A pension of \$5,000 a year is due Mrs. Cleveland, according to precedent, and Senator Root today presented to the senate a bill making the grant. The amount is the same as was allowed to the widowed wives of former presidents.

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PARIS ELECTRICIANS THREATEN TO STRIKE

By Associated Press
PARIS, Jan. 13.—Another electricians' strike is threatened in consequence of the dismissal of "King" Patand, secretary of the electricians' union. The electricians at a meeting last night, demanded Patand's reinstatement.

FINGER CRUSHED IN CLOSING DOOR

J. J. McQuillan, while endeavoring to close a refractory door at his home Wednesday night, succeeded, but at the loss of a finger nail. He managed in some way to have the first finger on his left hand in the way of the door and as a result had that member badly crushed necessitating the services of a physician to dress the injury.

CASE IN JUSTICE COURT IS CONTINUED

The case of Ida-Wonderlin, who was arrested last week on a charge of threatened assault with a deadly weapon, and which was postponed until yesterday, was continued again until Saturday, owing to the attorneys being occupied in the district court. The case will be determined by a jury.

**Former Forest Officer
Says That a Moral Issue
Now Faces This Country.**

**Declares Enemies of Conservation in Congress
Succeeded in Preventing Appropriation.**

By Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—"The conservation of the natural resources and the conservation of a popular government are both at stake. One needs conservation no less than the other." This statement epitomizes the formal announcement made public tonight by Gifford Pinchot, when the former official declared the great moral issue that now faces the country is not the loss of the natural resources so much as whether special interests or the people shall rule.

The statement asserts that Pinchot has no comment to make on the recent events, and that whether in or out of the government service, he proposed to fight for conservation, an equal opportunity, and that every movement and measure tending to advance conservation, and to promote a government by men for human welfare, he would try to help, but that every opposite movement and measure that hinders conservation and promotes a government by money for profit, he will endeavor to oppose. Pinchot stated the supreme test of the movements of a measure is the welfare of the plain people, and that he is ready to support the administration when it moves toward this paramount, but will oppose it when it moves away. Pinchot expressed regret at leaving the forest service, and paid a tribute to the faithfulness and high quality of service rendered by the men with whom he worked, and it was out of the work of the forest service, he declared, grew the conservation movement. "Today the movement expresses our deepest national convictions," he says. "The principals for which it stands are received as axiomatic, and it is only the execution of them which

remains in doubt. The great conference of the governors at the white house in May, 1908 led to the appointment of a natural conservation commission, whose report gave us a new conception of the value of our natural resources. It told us what was needed for their prompt and orderly development, and for their safety and perpetuation. Together with President Roosevelt's message transmitting its report, the recommendations of the commission furnished a complete statement of the conservation policy that met our needs squarely, and prescribed a remedy." Proceeding, he says: "At this critical period, when the goal is in sight, enemies of conservation in congress will not only succeed in preventing the appropriation with which to pursue to work but had attempted to forbid its progress by the Tawney amendment to the last sundry civil bill. Thereupon the work of the national conservation commission stopped and the recommendations of the commission still await action. The Tawney bill was more than a mistake, it was a deliberate betrayal of the future and the dangers which confront the conservation movement must be met by a positive action by congress."

"Unless congress acts, the water power will fall into the hands of the special interests without charge and without a limit as to time, and so it is with the phosphate deposits and valuable coal deposits in Alaska, when the withdrawals which now protect them will be removed. Special interests must no longer be allowed to take what they choose out of the great property of all the people. Those who steal the public lands steal the homes from men and women who need them. Congress can stop the pillage or let it go on."

BALL PLAYERS ARE ALL SUPERSTITIOUS

"Ball players in general are superstitious and some go to extremes in this respect," says John J. Evers, the great second baseman of the Cubs. "On the Chicago team, for instance, I am, I believe, more inclined to fear the jinx, than any other member of the club. In batting practice before the game the general belief is that you are not hitting the ball hard or up in the air. You will bat well in the game oftentimes as a result. In many cases I have seen a player hit two or three balls hard and then go to the bench and refuse to bat any more, saying, 'I'm saving mine for the game.' Going to the different parks in the cars the sight of a funeral along the road is always regarded as an ill omen. The same applies to a cripple unless you toss him a coin. Frequently a man having gone a mile out of the way to purchase something on a day when his club happened to win will continue to travel the roundabout pathway so long as the club is in that particular city or until his team-mates lose. Watch a man when the inning is over. If the inning previous was favorable to the player observe him go over and be particular to locate the same spot to lay his glove down. You doubtless have often seen a player attired in soiled and far from presentable uniform. Beneath all that lurks our old friend, the jinx. The player will stick to the dirty garments so long as his team is winning. When the streak is broken the laundry man gets a chance at the clothing, but not before. Remember how Frank Chance insisted in starting any one but Brownie in the last two world's series in which the Cubs figured? Well, that was because Mordecai started against the White Sox and

SISTER OF MILLIONAIRE TO CONTEST WILL

By Associated Press
ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13.—The charge that the late Louis F. Ewald, millionaire ironmaster, made his will under the influence of Ellen I. Golden, who induced him to leave the bulk of his fortune to her children, is made in a suit filed by Mrs. Rosa E. Damon, sister of Ewald, who was cut off with \$15,000. Ewald left \$2,134,000 cash. Mrs. Damon asks that her brother's will, which was probated both in St. Louis and Louisville, Ky., be set aside and that the instruments by which he adopted Mrs. Golden's children be declared invalid. Ewald was a St. Louisan, but died in Louisville.

SHEEPHERDERS DIE IN SNOWSTORM

By Associated Press
CASPAR, Wyo., Jan. 13.—Belated reports from the snow-bound range country indicate that a number of sheepherders met death with their flocks in the extremely cold weather of December. Herders employed near Wolton and Shoshone are reported missing. Antonio Galorize, who stuck to his sheep through a blizzard lasting 24 hours, succumbed to an attack of pneumonia after reaching camp. Tom Mahoney, who drifted before a storm for three days and nights, is not expected to live, as both hands and feet were frozen.

For results try the Bonanza.